

Colchester Housing Study
Initial Project Meeting Summary
August 24, 2004

Present:

Colchester PC: Mickey Palmer, Stephen Wark, Tom Berry, Carol McDonald, Sarah Hadd/Town Planner
BRI: Sharon Murray, Michael Munson

Scope of Work/Schedule:

Reviewed revised project scope of work and schedule, extending through March (attach)

Draft memo to PC in November – present at PC meeting

Public forum #1 and focus group tentatively scheduled for November – need to check schedules

Possible focus group participants:

- Severence Corners developers
- Financiers
- Landlords (VT Tenants Inc.)
- St. Michaels College – staff and student housing
- Lake Champlain Housing Development Corporation (present, expressed interest)
- Burlington Community Land Trust
- Chittenden County Transit Authority (access issues)

Project Goals:

Discussed project goals and planning commission expectations, including the following:

1. Would like housing information and data for inclusion in the new master plan, and to support good decision making.
2. Would like to know how local bylaws could be amended to encourage more affordable housing (currently being updated to incorporate Chapter 117 amendments).
3. Would like to know how the town might address other identified barriers to affordable housing.
4. Interested in what other communities are doing.
5. Interested in how needs identified locally may relate to RPC recommendations/targets.
6. Also interested in how much housing costs the community in relation to taxes generated, though this is beyond the proposed scope of work.